

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING NOTES

June 4, 2004

**CORPS OF ENGINEERS NORTHWESTERN DIVISION OFFICES – CUSTOM
HOUSE
PORTLAND, OREGON**

TMT Internet Homepage: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/TMT/index.html>

DRAFT

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the “record” of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

Mid-Columbia Flows:

The COE provided an updated ESP analysis, which is posted on the TMT web page. The forecast for average spring flows is higher than the forecast presented last week, due to recent rain events. Forecasted flows for June range from 130-139 kcfs, and BPA forecasted a 127 kcfs week average for Priest Rapids. Given all this, the participants at FPAC recommended that operations continue as last week: 125 kcfs minimum at Priest Rapids, and up to 135 kcfs while maintaining refill objectives at Grand Coulee.

ACTION: The COE will continue with the recommended operation for June 7-13: Operate Priest Rapids at a hard constraint minimum of 125 kcfs and look for available water to provide up to a 135 kcfs weekly average while meeting Grand Coulee refill objectives. TMT will check in on this issue at the June 9th TMT meeting.

Sturgeon and Libby Operations Update:

Movement of the sturgeon downstream (which indicates spawning) prompted the start of the sturgeon pulse operation as requested in SOR 2004-FWS1. Libby began ramping up to 13 kcfs on Saturday, May 29th, and will ramp up further to 14 kcfs on June 6th at 6 pm. Libby is at elevation 1432', filling ~.2'/day, with inflows of 17 kcfs. The current operation is on target with the USFWS request.

John Day/The Dalles Spill Management:

After discussions at the previous two TMT meetings on SOR 2004-10, a spill management subgroup met to discuss spill management at John Day and The Dalles. Rudd Turner, COE, emailed a summary of the discussion and recommendation to the

TMT. The subgroup recommended that the projects be operated to target 60% and 40% spill, rather than operate to maximums of 60% and 40%. The COE will make every effort to stay within 1% of these targets (plus or minus), with a priority of a day by day, then within week, then week by week basis. NOAA agreed to this recommendation, as did the rest of the participating members of TMT.

ACTION: The COE and BPA will implement the subgroup recommendation beginning this afternoon. John Wellschlager and Rudd Turner will communicate this with their respective project schedulers and operators, and provide an update of this decision to TMT next week (some TMT members were not available for today's call).

Other:

Dave Statler, Nez Perce, noted that Dworshak is near full, there have been good flows in the Clearwater, and this translates to good flows at Lower Granite. From the tribes' perspective, this is a positive condition.

Next Meeting, June 9, 9am-noon:

Agenda items:

- Hanford Reach
- Sturgeon Operations (including "priority" email from USFWS – see SOR 2004-FWS1 discussion above)
- CRITFC Treaty Fishing
- McNary 1% Test
- Spill Management Subgroup Report
- Mid-Columbia Flows
- System Status Review

Meeting Minutes

1. Greeting and Introductions

The June 4 Technical Management Team conference call was chaired by Rudd Turner of the Corps and facilitated by Donna Silverberg. The following is a distillation, not a verbatim transcript, of items discussed at the meeting and actions taken. Anyone with questions or comments about these minutes should call Turner at 503/808-3936.

2. Mid-Columbia Flow Objectives.

Turner said there is a new ESP analysis now available; it can be downloaded via hotlink from today's TMT agenda on the TMT homepage. He noted that these graphs show outflows and reservoir elevations for Grand Coulee and Priest Rapids, and run through August 31. This run captures several recent rain events, and shows an average flow of 122-126 Kcfs for the spring period at Priest Rapids, and 130-139 Kcfs for June average flows at that project. The June early-bird forecast at The Dalles, 72.6 MAF, is a bit higher than the May final forecast for that project, said Turner.

In response to a question from Woodin, Turner noted that ESP and STP are separate modeling tools, so differences between their outputs are not unusual. And the bottom line is that we're looking at about a 20 Kcfs increase in average flows between the most recent ESP run and the last one? Paul Wagner asked. That's correct, Turner replied. For the period May 31-June 6, we agreed to operate Priest Rapids with 125 Kcfs as a minimum outflow, shooting for higher flows, with a maximum flow of 135 Kcfs and keeping Grand Coulee refill in mind, he added. So we'll see an average flow of about 130 Kcfs at Priest Rapids this week? Wagner asked. That's pretty close, John Wellschlager replied. Has Grand Coulee continued to fill? Woodin asked. Yes, Tony Norris replied – it is filling incrementally, and is at 1281.0, currently.

We discussed this at FPAC, and our feeling is that the current operation should continue, said Wagner – 125 Kcfs as a minimum flow, higher if possible without jeopardizing Grand Coulee's June 30 refill. And that's through the week ending June 13? Turner asked. Correct, Wagner replied. We'll do what we can, given the need to refill Grand Coulee by June 30, said Turner – it's still a below-average water year, despite the recent rain events. Bear in mind also that what we're trying to avoid is a sudden drop-off to 70 or 80 Kcfs during the last week in June, said Wagner. In response to a question, Wagner said Oregon, Idaho, Washington, CRITFC, the Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries participated in Tuesday's FPAC call, at which Mid-Columbia flows were discussed. BPA and Reclamation said they have no problem with the proposed operation.

3. Sturgeon and Libby Operations Updates.

Turner said that, last Saturday, May 29, the Corps then got a call saying the Fish and Wildlife Service had observed radio-tagged females heading downstream, so that was accepted as a trigger for the sturgeon operation. Libby has been releasing 13 Kcfs since Sunday; outflow will be increased to 14 Kcfs as of 6 p.m. Sunday, June 6, to 15 Kcfs as of 6 p.m. Sunday, June 13 and to 16 Kcfs as of 6 p.m. Sunday June 20. The current elevation at Libby is 2432 feet, filling 2/10 of a foot per day, with 17 Kcfs inflow, although inflow to the project has declined somewhat in recent days.

4. John Day and The Dalles Spill Management.

You'll recall that, at the last TMT meeting, we received a presentation on how spill is calculated from BPA, said Turner; at that meeting, it was also suggested that a spill operations subcommittee be formed. That group met on June 2; Turner said he had sent out an email describing what was discussed by the group, including the recommendations it reached. The memo also included an operational recommendation for TMT approval, Turner said. What we found was that we have come extremely close to meeting the 60% at John Day; at The Dalles, we found an underrun of 135 kaf. Our plan at The Dalles is to work on an hourly, nightly and weekly basis to ensure that the full 40% is delivered, said Turner. Woodin noted that the Mid-Columbia projects true-up their spill operations a day at a time, shorting spill slightly the following day if the target was exceeded on the previous day, and vice-versa. That's more or less what we were thinking, said Turner. BPA would also agree, said Wellschlager. Wagner suggested that it may make sense to revisit this topic next Wednesday, once a broader range of TMT representatives is available to discuss it. It was agreed that, since this topic was covered

under SOR 2004-11, implementation of the revised spill protocol can proceed immediately. That's fine with Bonneville, said Wellschlager.

5. Next TMT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the Technical Management Team was set for Wednesday, June 9 at 9 a.m. at the Corps' Customs House offices in Portland, OR. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle.

TMT Participant List

June 4, 2004

Name	Affiliation
Rudd Turner	COE
Tony Norris	USBR
Ruth Burris	PGE
Mike O'Bryant	CBB
John Wellschlager	BPA
Nic Lane	BPA
Rod Woodin	WDFW
Donna Silverberg	Facilitation Team
Paul Wagner	NOAAF
Kyle Martin	CRITFC
Cindy LeFleur	WDFW
David Benner	FPC
Dan Bedbury	EWEB
Jiong Ji	Avista Energy
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Scott Boyd	COE
Kevin Nordt	PGE
Russ George	WMCI
Ray Gonzalez	COE

Richelle Beck	D. Rohr & Assoc.
Denny Rohr	D. Rohr & Assoc.
Mike Buchko	Powerex
Dave Statler	NPT